



PRESERVING

RESTORING

ENJOYING

EDUCATING

INVESTING



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

POTOMAC VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

*...people dedicated to preserving, restoring, and enjoying
the natural world through education and action.*

www.potomacaudubon.org or 681.252.1387

ABOUT US

Potomac Valley Audubon Society (PVAS) is a non-profit conservation and education organization serving Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan Counties in WV and Washington County, MD.

While COVID challenges continued in 2021, PVAS continued to work toward building a community of knowledgeable, motivated and capable environmental citizens; steward sensitive habitats; and offer opportunities to learn about and explore the natural world while staying healthy physically and mentally.

PVAS partners with land trusts, public agencies, governmental entities, and other non-profits to steward the local landscape and reach new audiences.

We value biodiversity in nature, and we recognize the importance of diversity across our organization. Diversity, inclusion, and equity are essential to our community and to our mission.



Jean Neely
Founder and
Board Member Emerita

Since 1982 PVAS has been meeting its mission by “preserving, restoring, and enjoying the natural world through education and action.” This year PVAS celebrated its founder, Jean Neely, by proclaiming July 10 as “Founders Day” on her 90th birthday at PVAS’s annual meeting and picnic.

We invite you to reflect on the year with us!
Here is our 2021 Impact Report.



From left to right, top row: Laurel Schwartz, Watershed Coordinator; Kristin Alexander, Executive Director; Hannah Donnelly, Communications and Marketing Manager; KC Walters, Land and Conservation Manager; Krista Hawley, Adult Programs Coordinator

From left to right, seated in front: Gus Rasich, AmeriCorps Volunteer; Amy Moore, Lead Teacher/Naturalist; Jade Harris, AmeriCorps Volunteer



PRESERVING

PVAS manages four nature preserves in three counties. Now totaling 566 acres, preserved habitats provide critical protection for rare species and species of concern as well as places for hiking, education, and nature exploration.



Beavers appeared at both Stauffer's Marsh and Cool Spring Preserve in 2021! Once an extirpated species, having beavers return is a testament to the success of our conservation efforts. Partners from non-profits, state and federal agencies have been extremely helpful in our efforts to balance various rare species of plants and animals who call our preserves home.



The WV Division of Natural Resources released 81 brook trout at Cool Spring. Children enrolled at Audubon Discovery Camp helped with the release.



Community Science activities like the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) help track changes in nature over time. This year the CBC continued safely by utilizing quarantine groups. This was volunteer Bob Dean's 35th year compiling the data of our annual CBC! Birdathon and the C&O Canal Count also contributed data for scientific use.



The Monarch Alliance and PVAS held several Monarch tagging events throughout the service area for children and adults.



Steps were taken toward establishing a Climate Change Hub at Cool Spring Preserve. Stream temperature, weather, and other data are being collected in partnership with USGS, West Virginia State University, and other agencies to track impacts of climate change on sensitive ecosystems like our marl marsh.



We continue to partner with the WV Division of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, USDA, and the WV Land Trust to monitor all four of our nature preserves to guide conservation and stewardship efforts.



Photo By: © Donna Hershberger



RESTORING

Efforts towards habitat restoration continued in 2021:



Chimney Swifts are using the tower PVAS had constructed on Shepherd University's campus! This fall, a handful of swifts used the tower nearly every night - the first step for swifts to establish a long-term roost. Volunteers monitored the tower nearly every night from early August until the swifts had migrated away in October. 30 people attended our educational "Swift Night Out" to learn about Chimney Swifts and then enjoyed "swift sundaes" at Rock Hill Creamery to celebrate.



Volunteers continue to be critical to habitat restoration at the four preserves we manage. 60 Weed Warriors are now trained so they can work independently on invasive removal and other projects. In addition, 30 formal volunteer workdays were held in 2021.



To protect Stauffer's Marsh, 24 evergreens were planted to screen and buffer the marsh from the road. This was made possible through the Carla Hardy CommuniTree program. The grant for the trees was written by our AmeriCorps Volunteers, Abby and Emily.



A Monarch Waystation demonstration garden was established at Cool Spring Preserve in September. Designed by horticulturalist James Dillon and sponsored by The Monarch Alliance, 380 native plants and cultivars were planted by volunteers.



Promoting backyard pollinator gardens has never been so critical. In partnership with Sunny Meadows Garden Center, this year's Native Plant Sale helped get 5000 beneficial plants into the hands of property owners. In addition, three new waystations will be established at public gardens through The Monarch Alliance's grant program, funded by the plant sale.



ENJOYING

We are so grateful that enjoying the natural world was the safest and healthiest thing people could possibly do during the pandemic. This year PVAS provided ample and diverse outdoor opportunities for community members:



The Nature Playspace at Cool Spring is used EVERY DAY! Other groups have come to see it as a model for similar Playspaces at their own sites. And the back hill turned into a popular sledding run last winter.



"This Race is for the Birds!" was held in-person again, but with staggered times for runner safety and a virtual option as well. Participants from 12 different states participated this year, and 122 people enjoyed the beautiful trails at Broomgrass Community and an additional 55 runners and walkers participated virtually.



Bird walks and field trips continued through the year with limited numbers for safety. From Nature Journaling to Wellness Walks to Pollinator Garden Tours, these activities provided safe enjoyment and enrichment for 650 people.



A self-guided nature journaling station was created at the gazebo for people to share their observations, inspirations and drawings with other visitors. And outdoor summer concerts returned to Cool Spring in the summer.



Since an in-person event was not possible this year, our spring fundraiser turned into "A Virtual Walk in Woods with Wine." Staff provided virtual tours of each preserve for participants to enjoy while sipping wine donated by Reid's Distributor and munching on goodies provided by PVAS volunteers.



For those who couldn't participate in outdoor events, Master Naturalists created a Trivia Night called "Kingfisher Kahoot" which is an on-line platform for such activities.



ENJOYING

EDUCATING

We were able to offer more in-person programs this year than last, but the virtual programs have also continued. Thankfully, after nearly a year of virtual teaching and meeting under our belts, it's much easier!



The 2020 Master Naturalist Cohort finished after a year's delay thanks to a hybrid approach allowed the program to proceed with important outdoor field work provided in-person but Zooming the lecture components.



As PVAS tries to reach new audiences, we partnered with the Charles Town and Martinsburg Libraries to hold "pop-up camps" for four days this summer – two days each at Evitt's Run Park and War Memorial Park. It was a great way for kids, new to PVAS, to get some hands-on experience with binoculars, worms, turtles, and more. 250 kids participated over the four days!



Outdoor School, originally created in response to the pandemic in 2020, was so popular that it was continued at both Cool Spring and Yankauer Preserves. Homeschoolers spend one day a week with PVAS educators to explore and participate in STEAM activities (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math).



School programs continued to be virtual throughout 2021. A variety of topics were available to elementary grades, all funded by the Eastern WV Community Foundation, allowing 1250 students from 56 classrooms to participate in 2021.



The watershed program for 4th graders also continued virtually in 2021. Fun, educational videos were created for students, then PVAS educators met with classrooms for instruction and activities via Zoom. Nearly all 4th graders from Jefferson, Berkeley and Morgan Counties participated in 2021. In September, PVAS hired Laurel Schwartz, our 2019-2020 AmeriCorps Volunteer, to join the team full-time to coordinate the watershed program due to its growth.



PVAS and partners led a teacher training for 13 Jefferson County teachers this summer to help them facilitate Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) for their students as part of the watershed program. These MWEE's provide student-led, hands-on projects at schools to benefit their watershed.



Summer Camp was back to relative normalcy, though we kept groups small at each site and required masks when children could not be spaced out.



Monthly programs continue to provide educational lectures via Zoom. From Bald Eagles of the Potomac to Fascinating Fungi, these virtual programs reached about 300 people in 2021.



INVESTING

PVAS finished well in the black this year thanks to several factors: the PPP loan was forgiven; spending was minimized; staff developed programs that generated revenue while maintaining safety; and funders' and donors' incredible generosity. We are truly grateful to all who supported PVAS through thick and thin and to the staff for their ingenuity.

PVAS's quality programs were able to continue in a very uncertain time thanks to your generosity and PVAS's effective stewardship of funds. Your investment in PVAS allows us to educate and build environmental advocates and leaders for today and for tomorrow.

The healthy financial foundation you provide allows PVAS to effectively accomplish its mission. We send out a heart-felt thank you to all who have generously given, those who have included PVAS in your wills for future gifts, and those who have given through generous in-kind service and volunteerism. You are the reason PVAS can continue its important work.

Statement of Financial Position, Fiscal Year 2021

ASSETS	2020	2021
Cash and cash equivalents	\$400,273	\$403,172
Land, buildings & equipment	\$590,341	\$597,047
Other Assets	\$241,718	\$270,418
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,232,332	\$1,270,637
LIABILITIES		
Total Liabilities	\$28,657	\$61,835
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$1,203,675	\$1,208,802

Contributions received July 1, 2020 - August 31, 2021

BENEFACTOR (\$25,000 - \$49,999)

Neal & Alice Barkus
Larry Dean & Mina Goodrich

STEWARD (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

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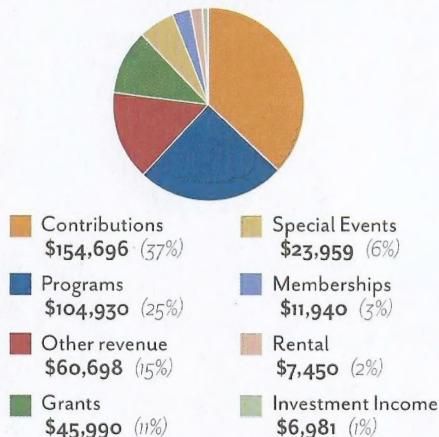
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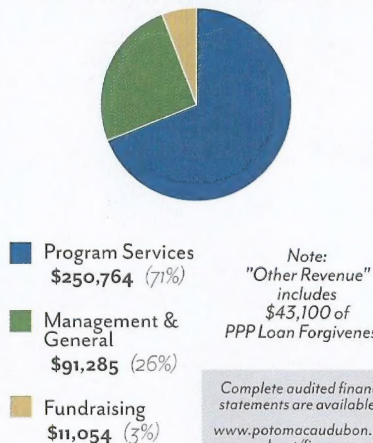
Fiscal Year September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021

PVAS Income: \$416,644



Figures do not include in-kind support.

PVAS Expenses: \$353,103



Note:
"Other Revenue"
includes
\$43,100 of
PPP Loan Forgiveness.

Complete audited financial
statements are available at:
[www.potomacaudubon.org/
about/finances](http://www.potomacaudubon.org/about/finances)

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In honor of my brother - Stauffer Miller
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In honor of Angie Blair
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In honor of Stauffer & Ellie Miller
Scott Tsukuda
In honor of Linda Case
Marie Tyler-McGraw
In honor of Nan Johnson
Joan Van Brunt
In honor of Nan Johnson

2021 GRANTS

Berkeley County Public Service Storm Water District
\$7,200 to provide PVAS's watershed education program to Berkeley County 4th graders

Cacapon Institute
\$3,750 to support Meaningful Watershed Education Experiences in the Eastern Panhandle

Carla Hardy WV Project CommuniTree
for 24 trees for Stauffer's Marsh to buffer wetland from road

City of Martinsburg
\$9,900 to provide PVAS's watershed education program to 4th graders in the City of Martinsburg

City of Ranson
\$1,500 to provide PVAS programs at Ranson Elementary School

Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation's Jane P. Snyder Fund
\$3,000 to support PVAS programs at schools serving disadvantaged youth in Jefferson County

Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation's Frada Fine Berkeley Education Fund
\$4,000 to support PVAS programs at schools serving disadvantaged youth in Berkeley County

The Nora Roberts Foundation
\$15,000 for PVAS general support of youth programs

West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection
\$9,290 for PVAS's watershed education program at Driswood and TA Lowery Schools

West Virginia Rivers Coalition
\$3,000 for PVAS's watershed education program at Eastern Panhandle schools

Wild East/Appalachian Trail Conservancy
\$10,000 for partial easement fee support and climate change study at Cool Spring

If any of the information is inaccurate or incomplete, please get in touch with us so we may correct our records.

Thank you for your generous support!